An additional allocation of 500 tonnes and 1,000 tonnes for July and for August, 1984 respectively has been made for Kerala.

Exploration of Natural Gas

1394. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for exploiting natural gas for the purpose of setting up gas based power plants;

(b) If so, what are the details thereof and by when the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the quantity of energy likely to be available as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) Natural gas is primarily to be utilised for manufacture of Fertilizers and petrochemicals. The availability of gas for genration of power is being looked into in the context of these priority commitments and keeping in view the present assessment of vailability. An inter-Ministerial Group was set up to look into this. The proposals are under examination.

Coal written off by Coal India Limited

1395. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited had written off about four million tonnes of coal from its pithead stocks;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard and responsibility fixed; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of a super thermal power plant at Murad Nagar

1396. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that world Bank has agreed to provide assistance for the Super Thermal Power Plant at Murad Nagar in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the total outlay of the project and the quantum of assistance offered by the World Bank; and

(c) the terms and conditions of the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The National Capital Region Super Thermal Power Project (Stage-I) at Murad Nagar has been posed to the World Bank for financial assistance.

(b) and (c) As per the feasibility report of the project, the estimated cost of stage-I (4x210 MW) of the project is Rs. 911.96 crores. The quantum and the terms and conditions of financial assistance by World Bank can be known after the loan has been negotiated.

DESU Officials involved in theft of power

1397. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of officials of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have been found to be involved in the theft of power resulting in huge losses;

(b) if so, what are the particular of DESU officers found involved in the theft of power and undermetering so far; and

(c) what action has been taken against the officials and other persons found involved there in?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The electricity bills in the case of 63 officers of DESU *prima facie* showed low consumption of electricity. The Vigilance Department of Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking, which investigated the matter, has concluded that in the case of 20 officers electric meters were not found in order and there was under-billing. DESU has therefore ordered recovery of a total amount of Rs. 17,883 from the officers concerned. A total amount of Rs. 7,048 has already been recovered, and the balance amount is also being realised. In addition, DESU has started disciplinary action against two officers. In another case, relating to a third officer, an FIR has been lodged with the police for theft of electricity and a case has been registered. In the remaining cases of 43 officers, the Vigilance Department of DESU has come to the conclusion that there has been no under-billing.

Telephones for retired government officials

1398. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all retiring Government officials whose basic salary one year prior to retirement was Rs. 1,600 can now apply for telephone connection under a special category; and

(b) if so, how many such officers with or without official telephones at their residence have so far applied for telephone connections in Delhi under this category?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Television stringers accredited with Doordarshan Kendra

1399. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount paid per running foot to television stringers accredited to various Door-darshan Kendras for the total coverage of telecast;

(b) when the rates were fixed;

(c) whether it is a fact that stringers are not paid any extra amount for travelling, incidental charges and daily allowance on working and non-working days;

(d) whether Government are aware of the resentment among stringers in regard to the poor payment being made to them;

(e) whether Government propose to look into their working conditions to enhance their rates of remuneration;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(g) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The stringers accredited to various Doordarshan Kendras are paid for the rate of Rs. 8.00 per utilised feet for silent coverage and Rs. 10.00 per running feet for sound-synchronized coverage. These are all inclusive rates and no